

Information Products Bulletin

December 2009

Significant Information Products Under Development or Modification

The Information Products Bulletin (IPB) is a joint effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to inform the public about "*significant information products*" being developed by EPA and some states, and identify opportunities for stakeholder and public involvement. "*Significant information products*" include products under development or modification by EPA and states, that use national or regional data to describe environmental conditions, trends, and/or the performance of companies, facilities and communities. Each of the product descriptions below includes a list of the stakeholder and public involvement activities that are expected to be available during product development. It should be noted that not all products provide an opportunity for stakeholder or public input during product development. Examples of such products are those produced on a routine or annual basis, or those that are technical, science-based documents that undergo a rigorous peer review process.

Specific information regarding dates for public meetings, workshops, forums, etc. may be obtained about individual products by contacting the number listed under each product description.

Please Note: The IPB is not intended to be a compilation of all EPA and State information products, only "*significant information products*" currently in the pipeline. Expected release dates are the best estimates to date; schedules are subject to change.

Products Under Development

Cross-Media

Region 2 Sustainability Guidebook for Communities

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA Region 2 developed Planning for a Sustainable Future - A Guide for Local Governments. This is a new document that the region produced at the request of municipalities who were looking to □go green□ but needed a guide/outline for how to do so. The guide provides best practices and solutions, case studies, tips and tools and recommended resources for communities on: o Transportation o Land Use Planning o Biological Conservation and Open Space Preservation o Solid Waste Generation and Recycling o Energy, Air Quality and Climate o Protecting Water Quality and Ensuring Future Supply o Green Building o Green Construction o Green Procurement

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Region 2

- **Co-Developer:** Region 2

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Public Affairs Division

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Web site/Web page, Hotline/Public Information Line

How to Access Draft Product: at www.epa.gov/region2/sustainability/greencommunities/

Watershed Resource Registry

Federal vs. State: State

Description: The Watershed Resource Registry (WRR) is a geographic information systems (GIS) based tool intended to integrate the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorities. WRR can be used to analyze watersheds for a variety of conditions in order to create a database of opportunity sites for the protection of high quality resources, restoration of impaired resources and improvement of stormwater management. WRR facilitates the implementation of CWA Sections 319, 401, 402 and 404.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Region 3

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Water Protection Division

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Forum(s)/Workshop(s)

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Products Undergoing Significant Revisions and/or Products that are Released on a Regular Basis

Air

CMAQ-WRF (Weather Research Forecast)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system was developed by the EPA National Exposure Research Laboratory in 1999. CMAQ is a modeling framework available to air quality regulators, policy makers, industry, and scientists to address multi-scale, multi-pollutant air quality concerns. The CMAQ has a unique framework and science design that enables scientists and regulators to build their own modeling system to suit their needs. Users can access pre-installed modeling systems provided by the EPA or can incorporate their own modeling systems to work within the existing framework software. The NOAA and EPA have developed an operational Air Quality Forecasting System for the contiguous United States. The system, which couples NOAA's WRF (Weather Research Forecast) meteorological model with EPA's CMAQ model, provides public forecasts of hourly, peak 1- and 8-hour ozone (O₃) concentrations throughout the summer of 2007. In order to characterize the performance of the modeling system a suite of statistical metrics that facilitates evaluation of both discrete-type forecasts (observed versus modeled concentrations of O₃) and categorical-type forecasts (observed versus modeled exceedances of both the maximum 1-hr and 8-hr standards for O₃) will be applied over various temporal and spatial resolutions. Ozone data from more than 1000 monitors obtained from EPA's AIRNOW monitoring network will be used in the evaluation. Model will be available for download from <http://www.cmascenter.org/>.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development

- **EPA Office/Organization:** National Exposure Research Laboratory, National Exposure Research Laboratory

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Other

How to Access Draft Product: ams.confex.com/ams/88Annual/techprogram/paper_133210.htm

National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: This is an annual report on EPA's most recent evaluation of air pollution trends in the United States. The focus of the report is on the status and trends in the ambient air concentrations and emissions of six pollutants (carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, oxone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide) for which EPA has established national ambient air quality standards. EPA also identifies air quality trends related to toxic air pollutants (such as benzene, methylene chloride, and mercury), visibility impairment, and acid rain.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Air and Radiation

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Air/Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Air/Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): None

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/airtrends

Progress in Reducing the Risk from Radon in America's Homes

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: This report will present data on the scope of the radon risk in homes, the use of residential radon mitigation systems in existing homes, and the use of radon resistant construction in new homes. The intended audience includes members of the radon mitigation industry and the construction industry, as well as federal, state, and local government officials in the radon field.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Air and Radiation

- **EPA Office/Organization:** OAR-ORIA-IED-CR&AT (Indoor Environments Division, Center for Radon & Air Toxics)

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, E-mail/Listserv

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Cross-Media

Bio-reactor Landfill State of the Practice Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA has developed and is in the process of publishing a report documenting the current practice of operating municipal sanitary landfills as bio-reactors. A bio-reactor landfill is one in which liquids are introduced to accelerate the microbial degradation of the waste. This is a relatively new concept that is being tested in a number of facilities around the country. The advantages of accelerating degradation include increased opportunity to recover useful gas, reduced period of time needed to provide leachate and other environmental controls, increased disposal capacity, and earlier achievement of site stability. This study describes current technical

practices, operating experiences, and environmental impacts. For further information, please contact Thabet Tolaymat (information listed below), or Jennifer Goetz at goetz.jennifer@epa.gov or 513-569-7899.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development
- **Co-Developer:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Research and Development/National Risk Management Research Laboratory

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder meeting(s), Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation, Survey(s)/Questionnaire(s)

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Survey Management Handbook

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Survey Management Handbook provides guidance on the conduct, design and analysis of environmental surveys. The Handbook is written for use by both statisticians and non-statisticians and provides practical advice on many aspects of survey research. The Handbook and the Guide to Secondary Information Products are the first in a number of OEI information publications that will provide guidance in developing quality information products.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Environmental Information
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Environmental Information/Office of Information Analysis and Access

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation, E-mail/Listserv

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

Pesticides

Tier II Groundwater Model for Carbamate Cumulative

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: EPA is developing a Tier II Groundwater Model that will generate refined estimations of concentrations of pesticides in groundwater for the carbamate cumulative risk assessment. The Agency is working with USGS to evaluate existing vadose-zone models that can be adapted for use in this risk assessment. The three models that have been evaluated include PRZM, RZWQM, and LEACHMP. The preliminary evaluation of these models was completed and included in the Agency's cumulative carbamate assessment. In August 2005, the Scientific Advisory Panel reviewed the Agency's preliminary carbamate cumulative risk assessment and provided comments. The final evaluation for the Tier II ground water model used in the carbamate cumulative is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2006. The final evaluation for the Tier II ground water model used in the carbamate cumulative was completed September 2007 and is included in the Revised N-Methyl Carbamate Cumulative Risk Assessment (http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/nmc_revised_cra.pdf).

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances/Office of Pesticide Programs
- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances/Office of Pesticide Programs

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Comment Period: February 15, 2005 - February 18, 2005

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Public meeting(s), Federal Register notice, E-

mail/Listserv, Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap

Solid Waste and Emergency Response

National Priority Chemicals Trends Report (2005 -2007)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: This report tracks progress being made toward the EPA ORCR goal, under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), to reduce the quantity of Priority Chemicals contained in wastes. Using Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data, the Trends Report also shows trends from 2005 - 2007, concerning the generation and management of the Priority Chemicals by National, EPA Region, State, county, industry sector, and federal facility levels. The report also includes estimates of the quantities of Priority Chemicals contained in hazardous waste streams, derived from the Hazardous Waste Biennial Reporting (BR) data. EPA Regions use the data in this Report to target specific industries and facilities for recruitment into OSWER's growing voluntary waste minimization program. Beginning with the next Trends Report, EPA plans to update this report biannually (odd years), using the most recent TRI data and Hazardous Waste BR data available to examine waste generation and management trends for the Priority Chemicals. The Trends Report and associated facility-specific data are only accessible at the website indicated below.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response/Hazardous Waste Minimization and Management Division Program Implementation and Information Division

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Stakeholder or expert consultation, Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastemin/trend.htm

Toxic Substances

Internet Geographical Exposure Modeling System (IGEMS)

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The Internet Geographical Exposure Modeling System (IGEMS), currently under development, is a modernization of several older stand-alone models. IGEMS brings together in one system several EPA environmental fate and transport models and some of the environmental data needed to run them. It also uses graphing and Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities. IGEMS will eventually include models and data for ambient air, surface water, soil and ground water. Interactive menus guide users through selecting models, selecting and organizing data to be used as input to model runs, executing model runs, presenting model outputs, and accessing user help. With the IGEMS graphical and GIS capabilities, users can view the results as isopleths, vectors, etc., and as geographic presentations, including overlays with population and geographic location. The beta test version of IGEMS is available; the final release date will be determined after peer review.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances/ Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances/Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

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Comment Period: January 01, 2010 - June 30, 2010

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Web site/Web page, Information fact sheet(s) and other similar materials

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/oppt/exposure/pubs/gems.htm

Water

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2008 Report to Congress

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wastewater Management, in partnership with states, territories and the District of Columbia, conducts the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) every four years. The CWNS is conducted in response to Sections 205(a) and 516 of the Clean Water Act. The CWNS is a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs to meet the water quality goals set in the Clean Water Act. This information is used by EPA to document national needs in a Report to Congress. The Report provides Congress, as well as state legislatures, with information to assist their budgeting efforts.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Wastewater Management

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Web site/Web page

How to Access Draft Product: epa.gov/cwns/

Fish Tissue Analysis for Mercury and PCBs from Commercial Fish/Seafood Markets

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: In response to a recent Health and Nutritional Examination Survey conducted by the NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene that identified elevated blood mercury concentrations in adult NYC residents, EPA has conducted a study to determine the mean mercury concentration of fish/shellfish species commonly consumed by New Yorkers. The intent of this study is to provide information that gives meaning to the phrase "Eat Fish, Choose Wisely" (NYCDOHMH). Twenty two commonly consumed species were sampled. The number of samples analyzed ranged from 4 - 16. Generally, a sample was a composite of three individual specimens, although for some small species (e.g. clams, shrimp, mussels) numerous specimens constituted an individual sample. All samples were obtained from the Fulton Fish Market (Bronx, NY) in May/June, 2008. The study is a collaborative effort between ORD and Region 2. In addition to mercury analysis, a subset of the samples will be analyzed for PCBs. NCEA is the ORD lead office for the study and is providing project management and statistical consultation. NRMRL provided contract services out of their lab in Edison, NJ, for sample collection and preparation. NERL's Cincinnati lab performed DNA sequencing for the fish samples to positively identify species. The Region 2 lab in Edison performed the mercury analysis and is performing PCB tissue analyses.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Research and Development

- **Co-Developer:** Region 2

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Research and Development/National Center for Environmental Assessment

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Other

How to Access Draft Product: No URL Available

National Lakes Assessment Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The National Lakes Assessment is a probability-based survey of the nation's lakes. The current report encompasses the results from the first survey which was conducted in 2007. The next lakes survey is scheduled for 2012 with a report coming out in 2014.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **Co-Developer:** Office of Research and Development

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

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Comment Period: September 15, 2009 - October 15, 2009

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Public meeting(s), Stakeholder meeting(s), Federal Register notice, Electronic bulletin board, Web site/Web page, Other

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring

National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue Final Report

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue is the largest national freshwater fish contamination survey EPA has conducted to date, and it is the first national fish contamination study with sampling sites selected according to a statistical design. Over a period of 4 years (2000-2003), fish were collected from 500 lakes and reservoirs in the lower 48 states. The fish samples (one predator composite and one bottom dweller composite from each site) were analyzed for 268 persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals, and the results used to develop national estimates of mean concentrations of these chemicals in fish. The statistical design of the study also provides the basis for estimating the percentage of lakes and reservoirs across the country with fish tissue concentrations above or below levels of concern for human or ecosystem health. The final report will summarize the sampling design and present the statistical analysis of the cumulative 4-year fish contamination data set.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Water/Office of Science and Technology

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishstudy/

National Water Quality Inventory: 2006 Report to Congress

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: Summarizes state water quality assessments submitted biennially to the EPA under sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Water

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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Forum(s)/Workshop(s), Stakeholder or expert consultation

How to Access Draft Product: www.epa.gov/305b

Report to Congress on Vessel Discharges

Federal vs. State: Federal

Description: The survey was requested by Congress to evaluate the impacts of vessel discharges potentially subject to regulation under the NPDES Vessel general permit. The results of the study will be provided to Congress in a report summarizing the findings as to the nature and extent of the potential effects of the discharges, including determinations of whether the discharges pose a risk to human health, welfare, or the environment, and the nature of those risks.

Contact Information:

- **AAship:** Office of Water

- **EPA Office/Organization:** Office of Wastewater Management
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Comment Period: None available

Stakeholder/Public Involvement Method(s): Federal Register notice

How to Access Draft Product: cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=350